

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 170715Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKARY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SG, FR, SEDU, EAD

SUBJ: FRENCH MINISTER OF COOPERATION PARTICIPATES

IN LAYING CORNERSTONE OF NEW UNIVERSITY.

1. FRENCH MIN OF COOPERATION, PIERRE ABELIN, ARRIVED IN SAINT LOUIS, SENEGAL, JAN 13 WHERE HE PARTICIPATED IN LAYING CORNERSTONE OF SENEGAL'S SECOND UNIV. PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND CONGOLESE PRESIDENT MARIEN N'GOUABI ALSO PARTICIPATED IN CEREMONY.

2. NEW UNIV., NAMED AFTER GASTON BERGER, FRENCH SENEGALESE METISSE PHILOSPHER, WILL TAKE PRESSURE OFF UNIV OF DAKAR (CURRENT ENROLLMENT MORE THAN 6,000 STUDENTS). IT WILL ENABLE SENEGAL TO CONTINUE ACCOMMODATE LARGER NUMBER OF FOREIGN AFRICAN STUDENTS WITHOUT RESTRICTING NORMAL EXPANSION OF NUMBER OF SENEGALESE ATTENDING UNIVERSITY. UPON COMPLETION, UNIV GASTON BERGER WILL INCLUDE FACULTIES OF LAW,
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LETTERS AND POLITICAL ECONOMY.

UNIV OF DAKAR WILL THEN SPECIALIZE IN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES,
PHYSICS, NATURAL SCIENCES, AND TECHNOLOGY.
FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO FINANCE 50 PC OF INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR NEW UNIV. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR,
SENEGALESE HAVE AGREED ACCEPT FOREIGN STUDENTS UP TO 50
PC, BEGINNING WITH STUDENTS FROM STATES WHICH ARE
SENEGAL'S RIVERINE NEIGHBORS.

3.AFTER CEREMONIES AT ST LOUIS, ABELIN CAME
TO DAKAR WHERE HE HAD PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
SENGHOR ON JAN 14. HE IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO PARIS
JAN 16.

4.COMMENT: CEREMONY SURROUNDING INAUGURATION THIS
FRENCH AID PROJECT, AND PRESENCE N'GOUABI, ABELIN AND
SEVERAL SENEAGLESE MINS DEMONSTRATED WHAT BOTH
FRANCE AND SENEGAL ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO NEW
UNIV. PROJECT IS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED INTEREST
BY BOTH SENEGAL AND FRANCE IN CLOSE COOPERATION DURING
NEW ERA OFFRENCH-AFRICAN RELATIONS FOLLOWING REVISION
OF FRANCO-AFRICAN ACCORDS.
AGGREY

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